

## LUDUS DANIELIS

Ad honorem tui Christi  
Danielis ludus iste  
In Belvaco est inventus  
Et invenit hunc juvenus

*Dum venerit rex Balthasar, principes  
sui cantabunt ante eum hanc prosam:*

Astra tenenti cunctipotenti  
Turba virilis et puerilis  
Contio laudit

Nam Danielelem multa fidelem  
Et subiisse atque tulisse  
Firmiter audit

Convocat ad se rex sapientes  
Gramata dextrae qui sibi dicant  
Eucleantes

Quae quia scribae non potuere  
Solvere regis illico muti  
Conticuere

Sed Danieli scripta legenti  
Mox patuere quae prius illis  
Clausa fuere

Quem quiavidit prevaluisse  
Balthasar illis fertur in aula  
Praeposuisse

Causa reperta non satis apta  
Destinat illum ore leonum  
Dilacerandum

Sed Deus illos ante malignos  
In Danielelem tunc voluisti  
Esse benignos

Huic quoque panis ne sit inanis  
Mittitur a te praepete vate  
Prandia dante

*Tunc ascendat rex in solium et satrapae  
ei applaudentes dicant:*

Rex in aeternum vive

*Et rex aperiet os suum dicens:*

Vos qui paretis meis vocibus  
Afferte vasa meis usibus  
Quae templo pater meus abstulit  
Judaeam graviter cum perculit

## THE PLAY OF DANIEL

To Thy glory, O Christ,  
this Play of Daniel  
was created in Beauvais,  
and the young people wrote it.

*While King Belshazzar enters  
his Nobles sing this Prosa before him:*

To the almighty Ruler of the stars,  
the assembled throng of men and boys  
brings praise.

For they hear how Daniel, full of faith,  
was obedient and bore his sufferings  
with fortitude.

The King calls for his wise men  
to interpret for him the letters written  
by the Right Hand.

Because the scribes cannot decipher  
it, they stand before the King  
in dumb silence.

But Daniel reads what is written  
and immediately reveals what  
was hitherto closed to them.

And when Belshazzar sees Daniel's superiority,  
he leads him into the hall  
and gives him a place of honour.

A flimsy and contrived accusation  
destines him to be torn apart  
by the lions' mouth.

But before the lions can attack Daniel  
God wills that they should be  
gentle with him.

Also, so that he should not be hungry  
God sends bread, brought by the swift-footed  
prophet, offering him a meal.

*Then the King ascends his throne  
and the Satraps applaud him saying:*

May the King live forever!

*And the King opens his mouth, saying:*

You who wait upon my words,  
bring those vessels for me to use  
which my father stole from the temple  
when he ruthlessly conquered Judea.

*Satrapae vasa deferentes cantabunt  
hanc prosam ad laudem regis:*

Jubilemus regi nostro magno ac potenti  
Resonemus laude digna voce competenti

Resonet jocunda turba solemnibus odis  
Cytharizent plaudant manus mille sonent  
modis

Pater ejus destruens Judaeorum templa  
Magna fecit et hic regnat ejus per  
exempla

Pater ejus spoliavit regnum Judaeorum  
Hic exaltat sua festa decore vasorum

Haec sunt vasa regia quibus spoliatur  
Jherusalem et regalis Babylon ditatur

Praesentemus Balthasar ista regi nostro  
Qui sic suos perornavit purpura et ostro

Iste potens iste fortis iste gloriosus  
Iste probus curialis decens et formosus

Jubilemus regi tanto vocibus canoris  
Resonemus omnes una laudibus sonoris

Ridens plaudit Babylon Jherusalem  
plorat  
Haec orbatur haec triumphans Balthasar  
adorat

Omnes ergo exultemus tantae potestati  
Offerentes regis vasa suae majestati

*Tunc principes dicant:*

Ecce sunt ante faciem tuam

*Interim apparebit dextra in conspectu  
regis scribens in pariete  
MANE THECHEL PHARES  
quam videns rex stupefactus clamabit:*

Vocate mathematicos  
Caldaeos et ariolos  
Auruspices inquirite  
Et magos introducite

*Tunc adducentur magi qui dicent regi:*

Rex in aeternum vive, Adsumus ecce tibi

*Bringing in the vessels, the Satraps sing  
this prose in praise of the King:*

Let us be joyful in our King so great and powerful,  
let our trained voices resound with noble praise.

Let the happy throng resound with solemn odes, with  
harp-playing and hand-clapping and a thousand  
different sounds.

His father's destruction of the temple of the Jews was  
a mighty deed, and thus he reigns following this  
example.

His father despoiled the kingdom of the Jews, and  
his feasts are now exalted by the splendour of the  
vessels.

These are the royal vessels that were stolen from  
Jerusalem and brought to Babylon in regal tribute

Let us present them to Belshazzar, to this our King,  
who richly adorns his people in scarlet and purple.

This man is powerful, this man is strong, this man is  
glorious, this man is honest, courteous, handsome and  
comely.

Let us be joyful in so great a King raising our voices in  
song, resounding one and all in sonorous praises

Babylon laughs and applauds, Jerusalem weeps;  
they are bereft, we in triumph adore Belshazzar.

Therefore let us all rejoice in such a powerful ruler,  
offering the King's vessels to his majesty.

*Then the Nobles say:*

Behold them here before thy face!

*Meanwhile a Right Hand appears in the King's sight  
writing on the wall  
MANE THECHEL PHARES  
When the King sees this, he cries out in amazement:*

Call the mathematicians,  
the Chaldeans and the soothsayers.  
consult the augurers,  
and bring in the wise men.

*Then the Wise Men are led in and they say to the  
King:*

May the King live forever! Behold, we are here before  
you!

*Et rex:*

Qui scripturam hanc legerit  
Et sensum aperuerit  
Sub illius potentia  
Subdetur Babylonia  
Et insignitus purpura  
Torque fruatur aurea

*Illi vero nescientes persolvere  
dicent regi:*

Nescimus persolvere nec dare consilium  
Quae sit superscriptio nec manus  
indicium

*Conductus reginae venientis id regem:*

Cum doctorum et magorum omnis adsit  
contio  
Secum volvit neque solvit quae sit manus  
visio

Ecce prudens styrpe cluens dives cum  
potentia  
In vestitu deaurato conjunx adest regia

Haec latentem promet vatem per cujus  
indicium  
Rex describi suum ibi noverit exitium

Laetis ergo haec virago comitetur  
plausibus  
Cordis orisque sonoris personetur  
vocibus

*Tunc regina veniens adorabit regem  
dicens:*

Rex in aeternum vive  
Ut scribentis noscas ingenium  
Rex Balthasar audi consilium

*Rex audiens haec, versus reginam vertet  
faciem suam, et regina dicat:*

Cum Judaeae captivis populis  
Prophetiae doctum oraculis  
Danielem a sua patria  
Captivavit patris victoria  
Hic sub tuo vivens imperio  
Ut mandetur requirit ratio  
Ergo manda ne sit dilatio  
Nam docebit quod celat visio

*And the King:*

Whoever can read this writing  
and reveal its meaning  
shall be given power  
over all Babylon,  
shall be adorned with purple  
and wear a necklace of gold.

*They, having no idea how to solve the mystery, say to  
the King:*

We do not know how to find the answer nor how to  
advise what this inscription may be or what the hand  
signifies.

*Conductus for the Queen as she comes to the King:*

Whilst the learned and the wise men are all  
assembled together  
they ponder among themselves but cannot interpret  
the vision of the hand,

Behold the wise woman, well-born, rich and powerful  
beautifully dressed in golden raiment; the royal  
spouse is here!

She will bring out of concealment the prophet by  
whose counsel the King will hear that his own  
destruction was written there.

With joy, therefore, let this mighty woman be  
accompanied with applause  
and let the sound of strings and singing  
resound with your voices.

*Then as the Queen arrives she worships the King  
saying:*

May the King live forever!  
If you want to know the secret of the writing  
King Belshazzar, listen to my advice.

*Hearing this, the King turns his  
face towards the Queen, and the Queen says:*

Among the prophets of the captured Jewish people,  
there is an expert in oracles.  
Daniel was brought from his homeland  
in captivity at your father's victory.  
Now he lives here under your command  
and reason requires that he be sent for.  
Therefore send for him without delay  
for he will explain what the vision conceals.

*Tunc dicat rex principibus suis:*

Vos Danielem quaerite  
et inventum adducite

*Tunc principes invento Daniele dicant ei:*

Vir propheta Dei Daniel vien al roi  
Veni desiderat parler a toi  
Pavet et turbatur Daniel vien al roi  
Vellet quod nos latet savoir par toi  
Te ditabit donis Daniel vien al roi  
Si scripta poterit savoir par toi

*Et Daniel eis:*

Multum miror cujus consilio  
Me requirat regalis jussio  
Ibo tamen et erit cognitum  
Per me gratis quod est absconditum

*Conductus Danielis venientis ad regem:*

Hic verus dei famulus  
Quem laudat omnis populus  
Cujus fama prudentiae  
Est nota regis curiae  
Cestui manda li rois par nos

*Daniel:*

Pauper et exulans envois al roi par vos

*Principes:*

In juventutis gloria  
Plenus caelesti gratia  
Satis excellit omnibus  
Virtute vita moribus  
Cestui manda li rois par nos

*Daniel:*

Pauper et exulans, envois al roi par vos

*Principes:*

Hic est cujus auxilio  
Solvetur illa visio  
In qua scribente dextera  
Mota sunt regis viscera  
Cestui manda li rois par nos

*Daniel:*

Pauper et exulans envois al roi par vos

*Then the King says to his Nobles:*

All of you, search for Daniel  
and bring him here when you find him!

*When the Nobles have found Daniel they say to him:*

Man of God, prophet Daniel, come to the King  
Come for he desires to speak to you  
He is afraid and troubled; Daniel, come to the King  
What is hidden from us, he wishes to know from you  
He will reward you with gifts; Daniel, come to the King  
If the writing can be known to him through you.

*And Daniel to them:*

I wonder greatly by whose counsel  
the royal command requires me  
But I will go, and all will freely know  
through me, what is now hidden.

*Daniel's Conductus as he comes to the King:*

This is the true servant of God  
whom all the people praise,  
whose famed wisdom  
has been noticed by the King's court.  
The King has sent us to summon this man

*Daniel:*

Poor and in exile I will go to the King with you

*The Nobles:*

In the glory of youth  
full of heavenly grace  
greatly excelling in all  
virtues, in his life and conduct  
The King has sent us to summon this man

*Daniel:*

Poor and in exile I will go to the King with you

*The Nobles:*

This is he by whose help  
that vision will be interpreted  
in which the writing of the hand  
made the Kings stomach turn.  
The King has sent us to summon this man

*Daniel:*

Poor and in exile I will go to the King with you

*Veniens Daniel ante regem dicat ei:*

Rex in aeternum vive

*Et rex Danieli:*

Tu ne Daniel nomine diceris  
Huc adductus cum Judaeae miseris  
Dicunt te habere Dei spiritum  
Et praescire quodlibet absconditum  
Si ergo potes scripturam solvere  
Immensis muneribus ditabere

*Et Daniel regi:*

Rex tua nolo munera  
Gratis solvetur litera  
Est autem haec solutio  
Instat tibi confusio

Pater tuus prae omnibus  
Potens olim potentibus  
Turgens nimis superbia  
Dejectus est a gloria

Nam cum Deo non ambulans  
Sed sese Deum simulans  
Vasa templo diripuit  
Quae suo usu habuit

Sed post multas insanias  
Tandem perdens divitias  
Forma nudatus hominis  
Pastum gustavit graminis

Tu quoque ejus filius  
Non ipso minus impius  
Dum patris actus sequeris  
Vasis eisdem uteris

Quod quia Deo displicet  
Instat tempus quo vindicet  
Nam scripturae indicium  
Miniatur jam supplicium

Et MANE dicit Dominus  
Est tui regni terminus  
THECHEL libram significat  
Quae te minorem indicat  
PHARES hoc est divisio  
Regnum transportat alio

*Et rex:*

Qui sic solvit latentia  
Ornetur veste regia

*As Daniel comes before the King he says to him:*

May the King live forever!

*And the King to Daniel:*

Are you called Daniel, the man  
taken away with the miserable Judeans?  
They say you have the spirit of God  
and can foretell anything that is hidden.  
So if you can interpret the writing  
you will be rewarded with huge gifts.

*And Daniel to the King:*

O King, I do not want your gifts  
The text will be interpreted for free.  
But this is the meaning:  
Your downfall is at hand.

Your father was once  
the most powerful of all potentates:  
swelling with excessive pride,  
he was cast down from glory

For he did not walk with God  
but made himself like a god:  
he plundered the vessels from the temple  
and took them for his own use.

But after many foolish acts  
at length he lost his riches,  
was stripped of human form  
and grazed the grassy pasture.

You too, his son, are  
not yourself any less wicked,  
for you follow the actions of your father  
and use the very same vessels.

Because this is displeasing to God,  
the time is at hand for vengeance,  
for the significance of the writing  
threatens immediate doom.

And God says MANE:  
your reign is finished.  
TECHEL signifies the scales:  
you have been weighed and found wanting.  
PHARES: this is the division.  
Your kingdom is given over to another.

*And the King:*

He who thus solves the mystery  
shall be adorned with royal garments.

*Sedente Daniele juxta regem, induto  
ornamente regalibus exclamabit rex ad  
principem militiae:*

Tolle vasa, princeps militiae  
Ne sint michi causa miseriae

*Tunc relicto palatio, referent vasa  
satrapae et regina discedet*

*Conductus reginae:*

Solvitur in libro Salomonis  
Digna laus et congrua matronis  
Pretium est ejus si quam fortis  
Procul et de finibus remotis

Fidens est in ea cor mariti  
Spoliis divitibus potiti  
Mulier haec illi comparetur  
Cujus rex subsidium meretur

Ejus nam facundia verborum  
Arguit prudentiam doctorum  
Nos quibus occasio ludendi  
Hac die conceditur solemniter  
Demus huic praeconia devoti  
Veniant et concinent remoti

*Conductus referentium vasa ante  
Danielem:*

Regis vasa referentes  
Quem Judaeae tremunt gentes  
Danieli applaudentes

Gaudeamus  
Laudes sibi debitas referamus

Regis cladem praenotavit  
Cum scripturam reseravit  
Testes reos comprobavit

Et Susannam liberavit  
Gaudeamus...

Babylon hunc exulavit  
Cum Judaeos captivavit  
Balthasar quem honoravit  
Gaudeamus...

Est propheta sanctus Dei  
Hunc honorant et Caldaeae  
Et gentiles et Judaeae  
Ergo jubilantes ei  
Gaudeamus...

*Daniel is seated next to the King and invested with  
royal jewellery and the King cries out to the Captain  
of the Guard:*

Take away the vessels, Captain of the Guard,  
lest they cause me any trouble.

*Then, leaving the palace, the Satraps take back the  
vessels and the Queen departs.*

*The Queen's Conductus:*

In the book of Solomon is found  
worthy and fitting praise of a woman.  
She is valued like a strong man  
from afar and from the remote ends of the earth

Her husband trusts her in his heart  
and prizes her above treasure and riches  
This woman can be compared to her  
whose help the King merits

For the eloquence of her words  
corrects the wisdom of the learned.  
We, granted the opportunity to play  
on this festive day  
devoutly herald her,  
Let them come from far away to join us.

*Conductus for the vessels to be carried away  
in front of Daniel:*

As we carry away the vessels of the King  
whom the people of Judea fear,  
we applaud Daniel.

Let us rejoice  
and offer him the praises he deserves.

He foretold the King's doom  
by reading the writing,  
he proved the false witnesses guilty

and freed Susanna.  
Let us rejoice...

Babylon exiled him  
when the Jews were captured:  
now Belshazzar honours him.  
Let us rejoice...

He is the holy prophet of God  
honoured by the Chaldeans  
the heathen and the Jews,  
therefore, joyful in him,  
let us rejoice...

*Statim apparebit Darius rex cum principibus suis, venientque ante eum cytharistae, et principes sui psallentes haec:*

Ecce rex Darius  
Venit cum principibus  
Nobilis nobilibus  
Ejus et curia  
Resonat laetitia  
Adsunt et tripudia

Hic est mirandus  
Cunctus venerandus  
Illi imperia  
Sunt tributaria  
Regem honorant  
Omnes et adorant

Illum Babylonia  
Metuit et patria  
Cum armato agmine  
Ruens et cum turbine  
Sternit cohortes  
Confregit et fortes

Illum honestas  
Colit et nobilitas  
Hic est Babylonius  
Nobilis rex Darius

Illi eum tripudio  
Gaudet haec contio  
Laudet et cum gaudio  
Ejus facta fortia  
Tam admirabilia

Simul omnes gratulemur  
Resonent et tympana  
Cytharistae tangant cordas  
Musicorum organa  
Resonent ad ejus praeconia

*Antequam perveniat rex ad solium suum duo praecurrentes expellent Balthasar quasi interficientes eum tunc sedente Dario rege in majestate sua curia exclamabit:*

Rex in aeternum vive

*Tunc duo flexis genibus secreto dicent regi ut faciat accersiri Danielem et rex jubeat eum adduci illi autem aliis praecipientes dicent haec:*

*Suddenly King Darius appears with his Nobles: the Harpists go before him with his Nobles singing thus:*

Behold King Darius  
comes with his nobles,  
a lord with his lords.  
And his court  
resounds with happiness  
and partying.

He is admirable  
and venerated by all  
Empires pay him  
tribute  
The King is honoured  
and adored by everyone

And the land of Babylon  
fears him.  
When his armoured squadrons  
rush on, like a whirlwind  
he scatters the troops  
and crushes mighty men

Honesty and  
nobility adorn him.  
This is the lord of Babylon,  
King Darius.

At this party  
all assembled rejoice in him  
and praise with joy  
his mighty acts  
so worthy of admiration.

Let all celebrate together  
as the drums resound,  
the harpists strike the strings,  
and musical instruments  
resound to herald him.

*Before the King reaches his throne two run ahead and expel Belshazzar as if killing him. Then as King Darius is seated in his majesty the Court cries out:*

May the King live forever!

*Then two kneel down and secretly tell the King to have Daniel summoned, and the King orders him to be brought in. But they pass on the orders to others saying this:*

Audite principes regalis curiae  
Qui leges regilis totius patriae  
Est quidam sapiens in Babylonia  
Secreta reserans, deorum gratia

Hear, O ye Nobles of the royal court  
who govern the laws of the whole country!  
There is a certain wise man in Babylon  
who reveals mysteries by the grace of the gods.

Ejus consilium regí complacuit  
Nam prius Balthasar scriptum aperuit  
Ite velociter ne sit dilatio  
Nos uti volumus ejus consilio  
Fiat si venerit consiliarius  
Regís et fuerit in regno tertius

His advice pleased the King,  
for formerly he explained the writing to Belshazzar.  
Go quickly and without any delay, for we wish to  
make use of his advice,  
If he comes, let him be made counsellor to the King  
and become third in the kingdom

*Legati invento Daniele dicent haec  
ex parte regis:*

*When the Legates have found Daniel they say this  
on behalf of the King:*

Ex regali venit imperio  
Serve Dei nostra legatio

By royal command, we bring this message,  
O servant of God!

Tua regi laudatur probitas  
Te commendat mira calliditas

Your righteousness has been praised to the King and  
your wonderful skill commends you.

Per te solum cum nobis patuit  
Signum dextrae quod omnes latuit

For you alone among us could understand  
the symbol of the right hand, a mystery to all.

Te rex vocat ad suam curiam  
Ut agnoscat tuam prudentiam

The King calls you to his court  
that he may acknowledge your wisdom.

Eris supra ut dicit Darius  
Principalis consiliarius

You will be, according to Darius' word,  
principal counsellor.

Ergo veni jam omnis curia  
Praeparatur ad tua gaudia

Therefore come, for all the court  
is prepared to rejoice with you.

*Et Daniel:*

*And Daniel:*

G'envois al roi

I will go to the King.

*Conductus Danielis:*

*Daniel's Conductus:*

Congaudentes celebremus  
Natalis solemnia  
Jam de morte nos redemit  
Dei sapientia

Rejoicing together, let us celebrate  
the solemn feast of the Nativity  
Now we are redeemed from death  
by God's wisdom.

Homo natus est in carne  
Qui creavit omnia  
Nasciturum quem praedixit  
Prophetae facundia

He who created everything  
is born as man, in human flesh;  
His birth was foretold  
in Daniel's eloquent prophecy.

Danielis jam cessavit  
Unctionis copia  
Cessat regni Judaeorum  
Contumax potentia

This is now the end  
of Daniel's rich anointing,  
This is the end of the Jewish kingdom's  
obstinate power.

In hoc natalitio  
Daniel cum gaudio  
Te laudat haec contio

In this Nativity,  
Daniel, with happiness  
this assembly praises you

Tu Susannam liberasti  
De mortali crimine  
Cum te Deus inspiravit  
Suo sancto flamine

You liberated Susanna  
from the deadly accusation  
when God inspired you  
with his holy flame

Testes falsos comprobasti  
Reos accusamine  
Bel draconem peremisti  
Coram plebis agmine

You proved the false witnesses  
guilty of their own charge;  
You slew Bel the dragon  
in the midst of all the people;

Et te Deus observavit  
Leonum voragine  
Ergo sit laus Dei verbo  
Genito de virgine

And God watched over you  
in the lions' den:  
therefore, praise be to the Word of God  
born of the Virgin.

*Et Daniel regi:*

*And Daniel to the King:*

Rex in aeternum vive

May the King live forever!

*Cui rex:*

*The King to him:*

Quia novi te callidum  
Totius regni providum  
Te Daniel constituo  
Et summum locum tribuo

Because I know you to be skilful  
in watching over the whole kingdom,  
I have chosen you, Daniel,  
and I grant you the highest place.

*Et Daniel regi:*

*And Daniel to the King:*

Rex michi si credideris  
Per me nil mali feceris

O King, if you trust me,  
you will do no wrong through me.

*Tunc rex taciet eum sedere juxta se et  
alii consilarii Danieli invidentes,  
quia gratior erit regi, aliis in  
consilium ductis ut Danielelem  
interficiant dicent regi:*

*Then the King makes him sit beside him,  
and some Counsellors, envious of Daniel,  
because he is higher in the King's favour,  
bring others into a plot to kill Daniel,  
saying to the King:*

Rex in aeternum vive

May the King live forever!

*Item:*

*Also:*

Decreverunt in tua curia  
Principandi quibus est gloria  
Ut ad tui rigorem nominis  
Omni spreto vigore numinis  
Per triginta dierum spatium  
Adoreris ut Deus omnium  
O rex

A decree has been made by those who  
have the honour to preside at your court  
that to dignify your name  
all the power of the gods shall be rejected.  
For the space of a month  
you shall be worshipped as the god of all  
O King!

Si quis ausu tam temerario  
Renuerit tuo consilio  
Ut praeter te colatur deitas  
Judicii sit talis firmitas  
In leonum tradatur foveam  
Sic dicatur per totam regiam  
O rex

If anyone shall have the temerity  
to refuse your command  
and worship another God rather than you,  
let him be judged with the utmost severity  
and thrown into the lions' den.  
Let this be proclaimed throughout the whole kingdom,  
O King!

*Et rex dicat:*

Ego mando et remando  
Ne sit spretum hoc decretum  
O hez!

*[Conductus quando asinus adducitur :*

Hez ua hez ua hez ua hez  
Orientis partibus  
Adventavit asinus  
Pulcher et fortissimus  
Sarcinis aptissimus.  
Hez hez sire asne hez  
hez ua hez ua hez ua hez  
Biax sire asnes car alez  
Bel bouche car chantez]

*Daniel hoc audiens ibit in domum  
suam et adorabit Deum suum, quem  
aemuli videntes accurrent et  
dicent regi:*

Numquid Dari observari  
Statuisti omnibus  
Qui orare vel rogare  
Quicquam a numinibus  
Ni te Deum illum reum  
Daremus leonibus  
Hoc edictum sic indictum  
Fuit a principibus

*Rex nesciens quare hoc dicerent  
respondet:*

Vere jussi me omnibus  
Adorari a gentibus

*Tunc illi adducentes Danielelem dicent  
regi:*

Hunc Judaeum suum Deum  
Danielem vidimus  
Adorantem et precantem  
Tuis spretis legibus

*Rex volens liberare Danielelem dicet:*

Numquam vobis concedatur  
Quod vir sanctus sic perdat

*Satrapae hoc audientes ostendent ei  
legem dicentes:*

Lex Parthorum et Medorum  
Jubet in annalibus  
Ut qui spreuit quae decrevit  
Rex detur leonibus

*And the King says:*

I command and confirm  
that this decree shall not be disobeyed.  
Hear ye!

*[Conductus when the ass is led in:*

Hee-haw! Hee-haw!  
From Eastern lands  
the Ass has arrived;  
beautiful and most strong,  
a most fitting beast of burden!  
Hee hee, Sir Ass!  
Hee-haw, hee-haw!  
Handsome Sir Ass, for you are so clever!  
Sweet-tongued, for you sing!]

*When Daniel hears this, he goes into his house  
and worships his own God.  
His Rivals see this and run  
to tell the King:*

O Darius, didn't you  
order everyone  
to observe the law, that anyone who prays to or  
beseeches any deity,  
other than you as god, shall be found guilty  
and given to the lions.  
The edict proclaiming this  
was made by the Nobles.

*And the King, not knowing why they say this,  
replies:*

In truth, I commanded that all the people should  
worship me.

*Then they bring in Daniel and say to the King:*

We saw this Jew praying to his own God,  
we saw Daniel  
worshipping and praying  
in defiance of your laws.

*The King, wishing to free Daniel, says:*

Never let it be granted to you  
that this holy man should thus perish

*Hearing this, the Satraps show him  
the Law, saying:*

The Law of the Medes and Parthians  
decrees in the annals  
that whoever disobeys the King's decree  
will be given to the lions.

*Rex hoc audiens velit nolit dicet:*

Si sprevit legem quam statueram  
Det poenas ipse quas decreveram

*Tunc satrapae rapiunt Danielem et ille respiciens regem dicet:*

Heu heu heu quo casu sortis  
Venit haec damnatio mortis  
Heu heu heu scelus infandum  
Cur me dabit ad lacerandum  
Haec fera turba feris  
Sic me rex perdere quaeris  
Heu qua morte mori me cogis  
Parce furori

*Et rex non valens eum liberare dicet ei:*

Deus quem colis tam fideliter  
Te liberabit mirabiliter

*Tunc projicient Danielem in lacum statimque angelus tenens gladium comminabitur leonibus ne tangant eum et Daniel intrans lacum dicet:*

Hujus rei non sum reus  
Miserere mei Deus  
Eleyson  
Mitte Deus huc patronum  
Qui refrenet vim leonum  
Eleyson

*Interea alius angelus admonebit Abacuc prophetam ut deferat prandium quod portabat messoribus suis Danieli in lacum leonum dicens:*

Abacuc tu senex pie  
Ad lacum Babyloniae  
Danieli fer prandium  
Mandat tibi rex omnium

*Cui Abacuc:*

Novit Dei cognitio  
Quod Babylonem nescio  
Neque lacus est cognitus  
Quo Daniel est positus

*Tunc angelus apprehendens eum capillo capitis sui ducet ad lacum et Abacuc Danieli offerens prandium dicet:*

Surge frater ut cibum capias  
Tuas Deus vidit angustias  
Deus misit da Deo gratias  
Qui te fecit

*Hearing this, the King says, against his will:*

If he has disobeyed the law I made,  
give him the punishment which is decreed.

*Then the Satraps seize Daniel and he, looking back to the King, says:*

Alas, alas, alas! By what bitter fate  
comes this sentence of death?  
Alas, alas, alas! Unspeakable crime!  
Why does this fierce crowd give me to be torn apart  
by wild beasts?  
Do you wish me to perish like this, O King?  
Alas! You send me to die a terrible death,  
spare your fury!

*And the King, powerless to free him, says to him:*

The God you serve so faithfully  
will save you by a miracle.

*Then they throw Daniel into the den, and immediately an Angel holding a sword threatens the lions so that they do not touch him, and entering the den Daniel says:*

I am not guilty of this crime  
Have mercy upon me O God,  
have mercy!  
O God, send a guardian  
to hold back the lions in their strength,  
have mercy!

*Meanwhile another Angel orders Habakkuk the prophet to take the food which he was carrying to the reapers to Daniel in the lions' den, saying:*

Habakkuk, you pious old man,  
go to the Babylonian pit  
to take food for Daniel:  
thus the King of all peoples commands you.

*Habakkuk to him:*

God in his wisdom knows  
that I don't know Babylon,  
nor do I know the pit  
where they have put Daniel.

*Then the Angel seizes him by the hair of his head and takes him to the pit, and Habakkuk offering the food to Daniel, says:*

Arise brother, and take this food!  
God has seen your sufferings.  
God has provided, give God thanks  
for He made you.

*Et Daniel cibum accipiens dicet:*

Recordatus es mei Domine  
Accipiam in tuo nomine. Alleluia

*Hic transactis, angelus reducat Abacuc in locum suum, tunc rex descendens de solio suo veniet ad lacum, dicens lacrimabiliter:*

Te ne putas Daniel  
Salvabit ut eripiaris  
A nece proposita  
Quem tu colis et veneraris

*Et Daniel regí:*

Rex in aeternum vive

*Item:*

Angelicum solita misit pietate patronum  
Quo Deus ad tempus conpescuit  
Ora leonum

*Tunc rex gaudens exclamabit:*

Daniel educite  
Te aemulos immittite

*Cum expoliati fuerint et venerint ante lacum, clamabunt:*

Merito haec patimur  
Quia peccavimus in sanctum Dei  
Injuste egimus  
Iniquitatem fecimus

*Ille projecti in lacum statim consumentur a leonibus et rex videns hoc dicet:*

Deum Danielis  
Qui regnat in saeculis  
Adorari jubeo  
A cunctis populis

*Daniel in pristinum gradum receptus prophetabit:*

Ecce venit sanctus ille  
Sanctorum sanctissimus  
Quem rex iste jubet coli  
Potens et fortissimus  
Cessant phana cesset regnum  
Cessabit et unctio  
Instat regni Judaeorum  
Finis et oppressio

*And Daniel, accepting the food, says;*

O Lord, you have remembered me.  
I accept in your name. Hallelujah!

*Having accomplished this, the Angel leads Habakkuk back to his own place.  
Then the King descends from his throne and comes to the pit, saying tearfully:*

Daniel, do you think  
you have been saved, escaping  
the sentence of execution  
by the god you worship and adore?

*And Daniel to the King:*

May the King live forever!

*Also:*

With his accustomed mercy, God sent a guardian  
Angel just in time to restrain  
the jaws of the lions.

*Then the King cries out in joy:*

Bring Daniel out,  
and throw in the Rivals!

*When they have been stripped of their robes and have come to the pit, they cry:*

We have deserved this suffering,  
for we have sinned against holy God.  
We have acted unjustly;  
we have done evil.

*They are thrown into the pit and are instantly devoured by the lions, and seeing this, the King says:*

I order that the God of Daniel,  
who reigns for eternity,  
shall be worshipped  
by all peoples.

*Daniel, restored to his former rank, prophesies:*

Behold the Holy One is to come,  
the most Holy of Holies,  
whom this King has ordered to be worshipped,  
powerful and most mighty.  
Temples cease, the kingdom is to cease,  
and anointing shall cease.  
For the kingdom of the Jews,  
destruction and the end are at hand.

*Tunc angelus ex improviso exclamabit:*

Nuntium vobis fero de supernis  
Natus est Christus dominator orbis  
In Bethlehem Judae  
Sic enim propheta dixerat ante.

*His auditis cantors incipient  
Te deum laudamus*

Te Deum laudamus  
te dominum confitemur  
Te eternum Patrem  
omnes terra veneratur  
Tibi omnes angeli  
tibi celi et universe potestates  
tibi cherubim et seraphim  
incessabili voce proclamant  
sanctus sanctus  
sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth  
Pleni sunt celi et terra  
maiestatis glorie tue  
Te gloriosus  
apostolorum chorus  
te prophetarum  
laudabilis numerum  
te martyrum candidatus  
laudat exercitus  
Te per orbem terrarum  
sancta confitetur ecclesia  
Patrem immense maiestatis  
venerandum tuum verum:  
et unicum filium  
sanctum quoque:  
paraclytum filium...

*Finit Daniel*

*Then an Angel suddenly exclaims:*

I bring you news from on high.  
Christ is born, the Ruler of the World,  
in Bethlehem in Judea,  
for so the prophet said of old.

*When they have heard this, the Cantors begin the Te  
Deum.*

We praise Thee, O God:  
we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord  
All the Earth doth worship Thee;  
the Father everlasting  
To Thee all Angels cry aloud:  
The Heavens and all the Powers therein  
To Thee Cherubim and Seraphim:  
continually do cry  
Holy, holy, holy:  
Lord God of Sabaoth  
Heaven and earth are full  
of the majesty of Thy glory  
The glorious company of the Apostles:  
praise Thee  
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets:  
praise Thee  
The noble army of Martyrs:  
praise Thee  
The holy church throughout all the world  
doth acknowledge Thee;  
The Father of an infinite majesty  
Thine honourable, true  
and only Son:  
Also the Holy Ghost:  
the Comforter...

*The End*

Translation: Andrew Lawrence-King